

MINUTES

GARFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Board of Trustees Reorganization Meeting Wednesday,

January 8, 2025

The Reorganization meeting of January 8, 2025 was called to order at 7:05 PM by Vice President Thomas M. Derr.

1. A formal Roll Call was not requested:

Present:

Vice President, Thomas Derr

Secretary, Michael Kupec, Jr.

Treasurer, Suny Mellawa

Trustee, Berti Shenderasi

Newly Appointed Trustee, Paola Lebowitz

Alternate for Acting Superintendent Richard Tomko, Marie Marx (via phone)

Alternate for Mayor Everett E. Garnto, Kathy Grzywnowicz-Muniz

Interim Director, Keith McCoy

Absent:

Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Richard Tomko

Mayor, Everett E. Garnto

2. Vice President, Thomas M. Derr read the following statement:

- Pursuant to the Open Public Meeting Act, Chapter 231, Laws of 1976, adequate written notice of this meeting, together with the agenda of this meeting is to be:
- permanently posted on the Board's officially designated public bulletin board, located in the Garfield Public Library lobby, 500 Midland Avenue, in the City of Garfield delivered to the Passaic Herald News, and the Community News, newspapers circulating in the City of Garfield,
- filed with the City Clerk of the City of Garfield; and
- mailed to all persons, if any, who have requested said notice, pursuant
- Section 14 of Chapter 231, Laws of 1976.

3. GUESTS WERE WELCOMED

Nikola Skuretski

Linda Jackson

Alan Focarino

MaryJo Jennings

Debbie Lisovsky

4. SWEARING-IN

Paola Lebowitz took the Oath of Allegiance and Official Oath of Office, affirming her commitment to the duties of a regular member of the Garfield Library Board

5. ELECTION OF OFFICERS (THE FLOOR WAS OPEN FOR NOMINATIONS)

President - Berti Shenderasi made a motion nominating Suny Mellawa to the office of President, seconded by Michael Kupec, Jr. Motion passed.

Vice President- Berti Shenderasi made a motion nominating Thomas M. Derr to the office of Vice President, seconded by Marie Marx. Motion passed.

Secretary – Marie Marx made a motion nominating Michael Kupec Jr, to the office Secretary, seconded by Berti Shenderasi. Motion passed.

Treasurer – Berti Shenderasi made a motion nominating Kathy Grzywnowicz-Muniz, to the office of Treasurer, seconded by Marie Marx. Motion passed.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Keith McCoy reported that after 3 days on the job he has reviewed data on 26 thumb drives and has performed a consolidation of that data to 11 thumb drives. Keith McCoy suggested hiring additional staff.

7. PERSONNEL MATTERS

Thomas M. Derr made a motion and seconded by Michael Kupec, Jr. to create the position of Library Associate (CS 02288), at the rate of \$46,352 annually (hourly = \$25.47). Motion passed. (2 abstentions)

Thomas M. Derr made a motion made and seconded by Berti Shenderasi to authorize the Interim Director to offer the Adult Services Librarian position to a library student at the Library Associate rate. Motion passed.

With regard to the Library Director role, Thomas M. Derr reported that 5 candidates are currently under review. Next round of interviews (with top 2 candidates) will be with the entire board.

8. STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Planning will commence once a permanent director is hired.

9. CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

Committee will evaluate proposals received. Planning will commence once a permanent director is hired.

10. PURCHASING AGENT

Motion made by Berti Shenderasi and seconded by Marie Marx to temporarily appoint Keith McCoy as the Purchasing Agent. Motion passed.

11. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Friends President, Debbie Lisovsky expressed her support of the library and distributed a library trustee statement for consideration.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Thomas M. Derr and seconded by Michael Kupec, Jr. Motion unanimously passed. Meeting is adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Kupec, Jr.

Trustee / Secretary